

An aerial night photograph of Bucharest, Romania, showing a dense network of city lights and roads. The lights are primarily yellow and white, contrasting against the dark blue night sky. The city's layout is visible, with a central core and surrounding urban areas.

ANNUAL REPORT **2025**

Bucharest Metropolitan
Area Intercommunity
Development Association



Stavropoleos Monastery Church

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Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association

Metropolitan cooperation for sustainable and resilient urban development

The Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB) is the main institutional mechanism for cooperation covering the Bucharest–Ilfov area. Established in 2008 under Romanian legislation governing associations and foundations, the organization operates as a partnership between the Municipality of Bucharest, through the Bucharest City Hall, and Ilfov County, through the Ilfov County Council, with the role of supporting the coordinated development of the metropolitan area. **Its mission is to support integrated approaches and facilitate collaboration between institutions, so that the solutions proposed for the area's development are coherent, applicable, and adapted to local realities.**

The main objectives of the Association focus on developing and promoting regional projects that bring mutual benefits to member administrative-territorial units. These projects cover a wide range of areas, such as social, educational, infrastructure, environmental protection, research and development, interregional and transnational cooperation, entrepreneurship development, as well as emergency management.

In addition to its role in facilitating cooperation, ADIZMB also seeks to strengthen a strategic perspective on the metropolitan area. The Association contributes to monitoring urban development at the metropolitan level and to conducting territorial analyses, modeling, and impact studies necessary to inform sectoral public policies, integrated strategic plans, and planning documents in areas such as urban planning, climate

resilience, energy transition, and urban mobility. In this way, its work supports better-informed decisions and contributes to better coordination of efforts aimed at improving quality of life.

The Association operates in a complex metropolitan context, which concentrates a significant portion of Romania's economic activity, investments, and strategic infrastructure. The Bucharest–Ilfov region is one of the most important urban and economic centers in Southeast Europe, making a common approach focused on cooperation and complementarity not only useful but necessary. This is precisely why the Association constantly seeks out development opportunities that can be leveraged for the benefit of the region, through its own projects, partnerships, or initiatives supported by national and European funding.



Romanian Athenaeum



Mogoșoaia Palace

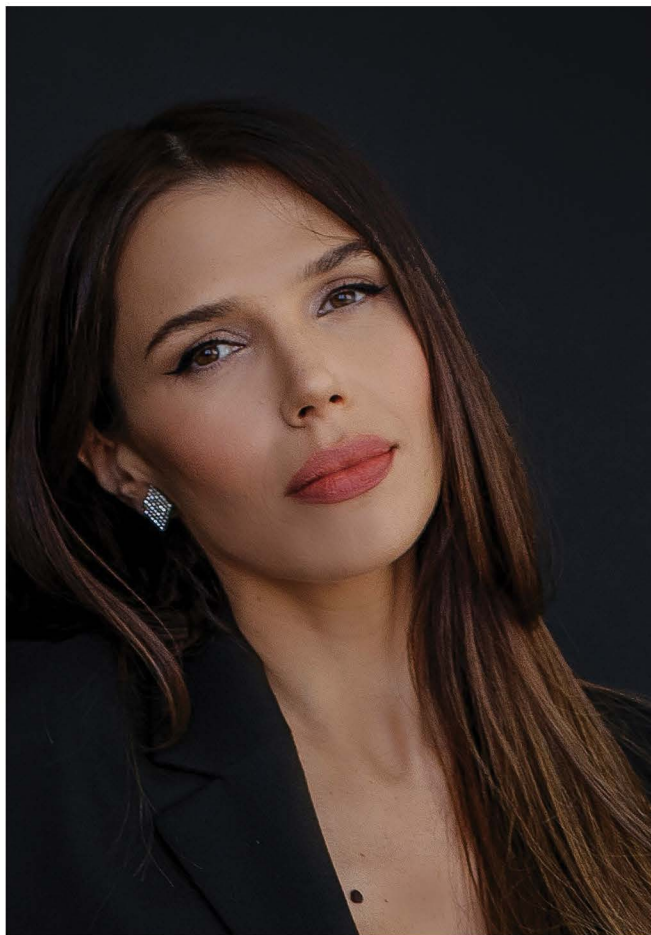


The Arc de Triomphe

An important element of our work is our openness to partnerships and international cooperation. Through involvement in specialized networks and collaboration with institutions and organizations with similar interests, the Association strengthens its ability to identify relevant solutions and bring experience, best practices, and applied expertise to the metropolitan area. This international dimension complements the institution's local role and helps connect Bucharest and Ilfov County to the European dynamics of urban development.

Metropolitan development is not just about infrastructure or urban planning, but also about the ability to build trusting relationships among public actors, to support impactful initiatives, and to maintain a balanced vision for the future of the Bucharest metropolitan area. In a rapidly evolving region where community needs are becoming increasingly diverse, this form of cooperation remains essential.

For more information about the activities and projects of the Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Municipal Development Association, visit www.adizmb.ro.



Metropolitan Development Through Collaboration and Coordination

Gianina Pănătău
Director

In 2025, ADIZMB's work focused on supporting the coherent development of the Bucharest metropolitan area through collaboration among local administrations and the coordination of initiatives that impact the region.

The Bucharest metropolitan area functions as a system in which the relationships between the city and surrounding localities are becoming increasingly close. Mobility, urban development, and access to services generate shared challenges that can no longer be addressed separately but require coordinated solutions.

Our role is to contribute to this coherence by connecting initiatives and supporting relevant projects at the metropolitan level. ADIZMB functions as a working framework in which administrations can jointly develop solutions and align the interventions necessary for territorial development.

Our work is carried out in close collaboration with the founding members and in line with the directions established at this level, while also capitalizing on opportunities that arise at the national and European levels. In this context, one of the most important projects coordinated by the association is **Orbital Bucharest**, a strategic infrastructure initiative that contributes to improving connectivity and the functional integration of the metropolitan area.

The ADIZMB team plays an essential role, comprising professionals with experience in developing and implementing projects funded by European funds, as well as the ability to initiate and develop relevant projects. From this combination of expertise and initiative emerged the **Metropolitan Observatory**, developed as a tool for analysis and support for informed decision-making.

Securing European funding remains a constant focus of our work, both through our own projects and through our involvement in relevant metropolitan-level initiatives.

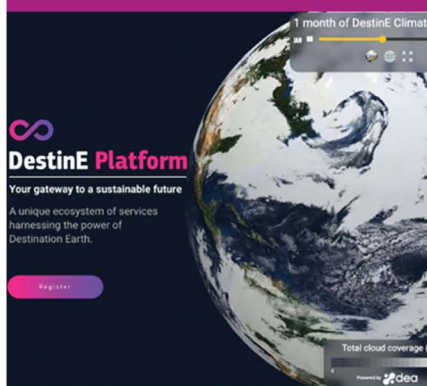
At the European level, our involvement in the METREX network (Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas) helps us connect with other metropolitan areas and access relevant expertise in the field of urban development. In 2025, we secured a second term as Vice President of the network.

Looking ahead to 2026, we aim to continue this course of action, remaining a trusted partner for our founding members—the Bucharest City Hall and the Ilfov County Council—and directing the results of our work toward the real needs of the communities in the Bucharest metropolitan area.

PARTNERSHIPS

Member of the **Geospatial Tools for Cities Focus Group** within the **European Commission's Smart Cities Marketplace**, alongside representatives from metropolitan areas (e.g., Barcelona), cities (in Austria, Spain, France, Ireland, Finland, Denmark, etc.), research institutes, and geospatial service providers; this working group provides a platform for local decision-makers, industries, investors, researchers, and other stakeholders in the smart cities sector to explore innovative solutions for a green and inclusive transition through the use of geospatial data. It is a shared space to explore how cities can benefit from the use of geospatial data, the challenges and barriers they face in this regard, best practices, and the identification of opportunities for joint projects.

Geospatial Tools for Cities Focus Group



Part of the City Ambassadors network of the **CityNexus** project, which uses the **DestinE** ("Destination Earth") platform—a flagship initiative of the European Commission. This aims to develop a high-precision digital model of the Earth, designed to monitor and simulate natural phenomena, risks, and related human activities - in assessing baseline conditions for human mobility and urban dynamics by integrating key indicators such as air quality, dynamic population distribution, land use, service accessibility, and the effectiveness of flood protection measures. At the same time, the initiative enables real-time interactive analysis of hypothetical scenarios to provide decision-makers with a collaborative platform to experiment with various strategies and solutions, taking into account diverse factors and variables that are crucial for successful and sustainable urban interventions.

Member of the **Compact Cities** thematic partnership within the **Urban Agenda** for the EU, a diverse and interdisciplinary partnership focused on studying the complex interactions between demographic trends, market dynamics, planning systems, and governance structures that influence urban sprawl and promoting compact urban development through approaches to containment, densification, and urban regeneration, to promote efficient land use, reduce car dependency, and improve social cohesion; the partnership aims for better regulation, better funding (support for sustainable urban development through new EU budgetary frameworks—the European Urban Initiative, InvestEU, and the New European Bauhaus), and better knowledge. Strengthening knowledge-sharing mechanisms and aligning urban initiatives with funding and regulatory instruments can help integrate compact city approaches into EU strategies.



HUB MOBILITATE SI MANAGEMENT URBAN



PMB partner in the **Mobility and Urban Management HUB** project funded under the PNRR Component C10 – Local Fund, C10-I1.2-2488. The defining role of the Hub is to ensure integrated monitoring and coordination of issues related to improving urban mobility and, implicitly, issues related to quality of life and air quality in Bucharest, through the digitization of territorial planning activities and operational activities connected to the National Territorial Observatory platform.

The overall objective of the project is to digitize urban management and urban mobility services in order to increase the efficiency of decision-making processes at the local public administration level, through the integration and interoperability of systems and databases in the field of urban planning and urban mobility.

Participation and Engagement in National and European Initiatives

In 2025, ADIZMB's involvement in national and European initiatives and cooperation frameworks aimed to strengthen institutional capacity and gain access to expertise relevant to the development of the Bucharest metropolitan area. These collaborations provided a practical working framework in which organizational models, tested solutions, and approaches used in other metropolitan contexts were analyzed.

Beyond the representational aspect, the value of these efforts lies in the opportunity to directly understand how similar challenges are addressed and to identify courses of action adaptable at the local level.

FZMAUR – Federation of Metropolitan Areas and Urban Agglomerations in Romania

At the national level, ADIZMB is part of the Federation of Metropolitan Areas and Urban Agglomerations in Romania (FZMAUR), which brings together the country's main inter-municipal cooperation structures.

In 2025, involvement within the federation facilitated direct dialogue between metropolitan areas and the exchange of experiences on topics such as institutional organization, the role of ADI-type structures in project implementation, or the relationship with central authorities. This framework allowed for a better understanding of how these issues are addressed in different local contexts.

At the same time, FZMAUR remains a relevant forum for shaping common positions regarding legislative initiatives and funding programs aimed at urban and metropolitan development.

FZMAUR

METREX – Network of European Regions and Metropolitan Areas

At the European level, ADIZMB is a member of METREX – Network of European Regions and Metropolitan Areas, a platform that brings together over 50 regions and metropolitan areas across Europe.

Through this membership, ADIZMB has access to a collaborative framework where key topics for metropolitan development are discussed, such as mobility, spatial planning, housing, the energy transition, and governance. The network's unique feature lies in the practical nature of the exchange of experiences, based on concrete examples and solutions already implemented in other metropolitan areas.

In 2025, this involvement provided access to up-to-date information and relevant practices at the European level, contributing to a better understanding of how these challenges can be addressed within the context of the Bucharest metropolitan area.

The experience gained within the network was also leveraged at the local level, including through the organization, in 2024, in Bucharest, of a METREX event that brought together over 150 experts in metropolitan development from across Europe.

In 2025, ADIZMB, through its director, secured a second term as Vice President of the network, reaffirming its active involvement in shaping the European metropolitan agenda.

METREX

Contributions to professional events 2025

- ◆ **Strong Metropolitan Regions for a Climate-Neutral Europe**
February 2025, Brussels, Belgium
- ◆ **National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Conference**
March 2025, Washington, DC, USA
Participation as a speaker on the panel “Comparative Approaches to Regionalism: International Perspectives”
- ◆ **Smart City, Smart Region – ADRBI**
March 13, 2025, Bucharest, Romania
- ◆ **URBACT City Festival**
April 8–10, 2025, Wrocław, Poland
- ◆ **METREX (Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas) Spring Conference – “Towards a European Metropolitan Agenda”**
June 1–4, 2025, Gdańsk, Poland
- ◆ **European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) 2025**
June 24–26, 2025, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- ◆ **Capacity Building Event „Collaborative Approaches to Sustainable Urban Development in Romania” – European Urban Initiative**
September 16–17, 2025, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Participation as a speaker – session “Functional Urban Area cooperation & multi-level governance”
- ◆ **Smart City Expo World Congress**
November 4–6, 2025, Barcelona, Spain
- ◆ **METREX (Network of European Regions and Metropolitan Areas) Autumn Conference**
November 5–7, 2025, Gipuzkoa, Spain
- ◆ **Metropolitan Romania Forum 2025**
November 2025, Iași, Romania
Participation as a speaker
- ◆ **From Policy to Table: Building Local Capacity for Sustainable Food Systems – Eurocities Academy**
November 13–14, 2025, Parma, Italy
- ◆ **Webinar „Strengthening Urban Resilience and Fortifying Sustainable Neighbourhoods for Children” – UNICEF**
November 11, 2025

Technical Assistance and Institutional Engagement

ADIZMB continued to provide technical support and expertise in the development and implementation of relevant initiatives at the metropolitan and regional levels.

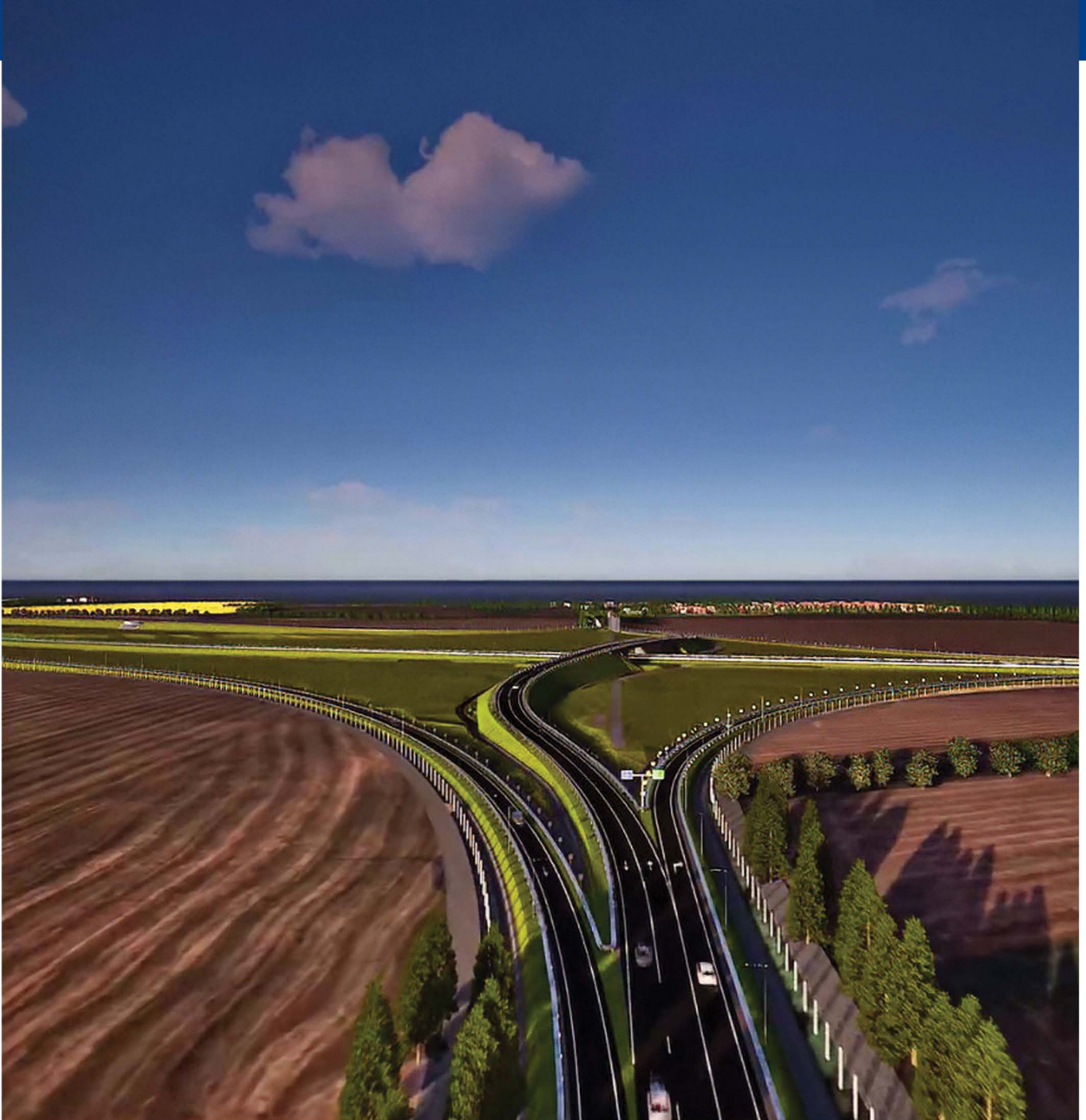
In this regard, the association was involved in:

- technical coordination of the development of the “**Bucharest Green City**” project, within the GCAP/PAOV program carried out in partnership with the EBRD;
- supporting efforts to define the concept of the **Green Belt** at the Ilfov County level, as the coordinator designated by the Ilfov County Council;
- coordinating the preparation of the application for inclusion in the European **Mirror Cities – M100** program, dedicated to the transition to climate-neutral cities.

Participation in working groups and coordination structures

ADIZMB is actively involved in coordination and planning mechanisms at the local and national levels, contributing technical expertise to the following groups and committees:

- National Group for the Optimization of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs);
- Working Group for the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUD) of Bucharest;
- Working Group for the Bucharest Velo Master Plan;
- Monitoring Committee of the Bucharest–Ilfov Regional Program, as an observer;
- PICA Bucharest Technical Commission;
- Technical Commission for Spatial Planning and Urbanism (CTATU) – Ilfov County Council.



Mobility Partnership Orbital Bucharest in 2025

With an estimated value of approximately 2 billion euros, the “Orbital Bucharest – Radial Roads Connected to the A0 Motorway” project is one of the most significant infrastructure initiatives in the Bucharest metropolitan area. Designed as an integrated solution to improve mobility, the project addresses a real need for connectivity between the city and surrounding areas, in a context where traffic flows have long since crossed administrative boundaries.

The Bucharest metropolitan area faces constant pressure on its transportation infrastructure, driven by the increase in daily mobility between the city and neighboring towns. In the absence of efficient connections, traffic is concentrated on the existing infrastructure, leading to long travel times and frequent traffic jams. In this context, the development of radial links becomes essential for reorganizing traffic flows on a metropolitan scale.

Orbital Bucharest proposes the construction of **eight radial roads** that will provide direct connections between the main thoroughfares of Bucharest, the Capital Ring Road, and the A0 Ring Motorway. Through this structure, the project contributes to more efficient traffic management and reduces pressure on existing infrastructure. The routes will traverse approximately 30 administrative-territorial units, reflecting the metropolitan nature of the initiative and the need for a coordinated approach.

Beyond the technical component, Orbital Bucharest has a clear strategic dimension. The project supports the functional integration of the metropolitan area and creates the conditions for more balanced economic development by improving accessibility and reducing travel times. At the same time, a better-organized infrastructure helps alleviate congestion and, consequently, reduce the environmental impact in heavily trafficked urban areas.

The main objective of the project is to establish direct and integrated connectivity between Bucharest's major boulevards and the main transportation network via radial roads connected to the DNCB and the A0 Highway. This configuration aims to optimize traffic flow in the areas where the city meets neighboring municipalities, where pressure on the infrastructure is highest.

Implementation is carried out in partnership between the Ilfov County Council and the Bucharest City Hall,

through ADIZMB, based on collaboration with the National Road Infrastructure Administration Company (CNAIR). This framework reflects the need for effective coordination for projects of this scale, where responsibilities are shared across multiple administrative levels.

Funding from non-reimbursable external sources requires high standards of quality, transparency, and efficiency, and ADIZMB's role is to ensure the coherence of the process and collaboration among the involved stakeholders.

The year 2025 represented an important milestone in the project's evolution, marking significant progress in the development of feasibility studies and in strengthening institutional collaboration. Efforts focused on coordinating interventions between the local and central levels, tracking contract implementation and ensuring compliance with technical and environmental standards, alongside constant progress monitoring.

By the end of 2025, the Orbital Bucharest project is in an advanced stage of preparation, with technical documentation for some of the radial roads nearing completion, while others are in the procurement or preparation phases, in anticipation of moving to the construction phase.

Given its scale and complexity, Orbital Bucharest is becoming an essential element for the development of more efficient mobility and a better-connected metropolitan area.





The Metropolitan Urban Observatory

A Tool for Understanding Territorial Dynamics and Informing Decision-Making

The Metropolitan Urban Observatory (MOU) is a program for monitoring and analyzing urban dynamics within the metropolitan area, based on geospatial tools that provide urban analyses, integrated assessments, and public policy recommendations by correlating information from urban databases.

Data Collection, Analysis, and Use

A central pillar of the program is the collection and processing of data at various territorial levels - metropolitan, urban, or neighborhood - including public data, data provided by public authorities, satellite data, or data available through an interconnected geospatial database system (such as, for example, the Urban Mobility and Urban Management Hub of Bucharest), using rigorous methodologies and openly shared metadata.

Specialists from the Department of Urban Planning and Urban Mobility within ADIZMB are constantly working on collecting, updating, editing, and processing data available at the metropolitan level into GIS format, resulting in thematic analyses that are also used within other projects and partnerships carried out by ADIZMB.

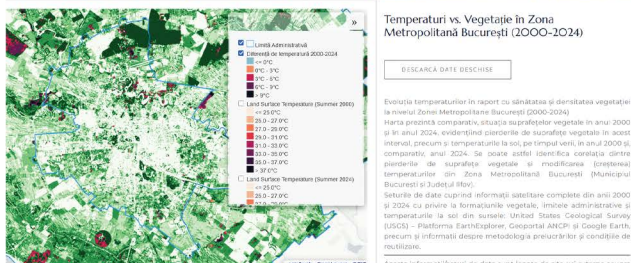
Geospatial Data Platform, Open Data Access, and Urban Knowledge

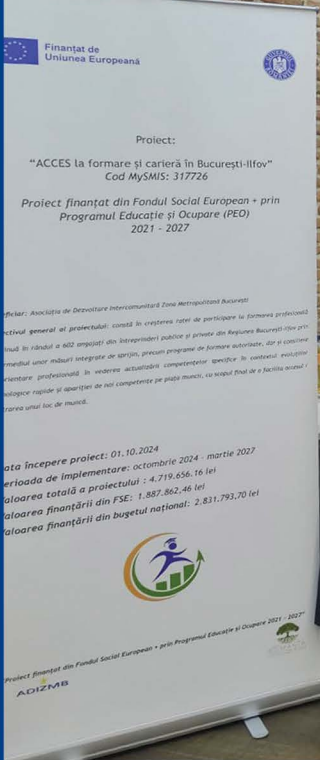
The online platform of the Metropolitan Urban Observatory (OUM) provides structured and spatialized data for visualization and offers open geospatial data, analyses, and relevant reports for download and processing. Through the data and analyses it provides, the platform serves both local public authorities in the Bucharest metropolitan area and the general public - including specialists, researchers, and civic initiative groups.

By processing data, conducting analyses, and facilitating participatory processes, this program serves as a laboratory for the sustainable development of the Bucharest metropolitan area, utilized by both public administrations and local communities.

Activities for the development of geospatial databases, carried out in 2025:

- **Pre-university educational institutions in Ilfov County** - creation and publication of the webMap, as well as the associated open data (.gpkg) on the Metropolitan Urban Observatory website (data on pre-university educational institutions in Bucharest and Bucharest municipal school districts were published in 2024);
- **Healthcare infrastructure in Bucharest and Ilfov County** - creation and publication of the webMap, as well as the associated open data (.gpkg);
- **Evacuation zones and routes, along with associated assembly, boarding, disembarkation, and distribution points in emergency situations** - creation of a preliminary map serving as the basis for dialogue with the DSU, IGSU, Bucharest municipal sectors, and Ilfov County Council for validation and subsequent publication on the Metropolitan Urban Observatory website;
- **Temperature trends in relation to vegetation density in the Bucharest metropolitan area (2000–2024)** – conducting the analysis and presenting it at the Geospatial Tools for Cities focus group, organized by ICLEI Europe;
- **Correctional georeferencing and orthorectification of historical satellite imagery (Corona KH-4B) for the Bucharest-Ilfov Region (1968),** required for analyses within the OUM;
- **Geospatial Register of Buildings in Bucharest Municipality - Physical and Functional Characteristics of the Built Environment (1990–2024)** – continuation of data processing and inventory of the current situation (2024). The following areas have been completed: Grivița–Chibrit Area, Drumul Taberei–Drumul Sării–Ghencea Area, Militari–Uverturii Area, Străulești–Sisești Area, Dămăroaia–Pajura Area, Sfânta Vineri Area – Moșii Vechi, Chitila Triaj – Coteasca Area, Bucureștii Noi Area, 16 Februarie – Giulești Sârbi Area, Giulești – Crângași Area, Unirii – Uranus Area, Belvedere – Ciurel Area, Unirii Area.





The Project „Access to Training and Careers in Bucharest–Ilfov – Keep Up”

A strategic response to labor market transformations in the Bucharest-Ilfov region

In a context marked by rapid technological change and structural shifts in the labor market, skills development has become essential for maintaining economic competitiveness and employment. Continuous adaptation of professional skills is no longer optional for employees, but a necessity.

Co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Education and Employment Program 2021–2027, the project “Access to Training and Career in Bucharest–Ilfov – Keep Up” contributes to increasing participation in lifelong learning in the Bucharest–Ilfov region. The initiative supports the European Union’s two priorities: the digital transition and the green transition.

Over the course of 30 months, ADIZMB—the project leader—and the “România Prinde Rădăcini” Association—the partner—are implementing a support ecosystem for 602 employees aged 18 to 64. They receive an integrated professional transformation pathway:

- **Skills Audit:** assessing current skill levels and identifying career barriers.
- **Personalized Counseling:** strategic reorientation in a fluid labor market.
- **Up-skilling and Re-skilling:** acquiring new certifications in fields critical to the economy of the future.

The main objective is to update and develop skills relevant to the new demands of the economy, with the ultimate goal of facilitating employees’ access to a job or helping them retain their current one. The project’s results contribute to the long-term development of an adaptable workforce capable of responding to economic changes.

Project architecture: three lines of action

- 1. Culture of continuous learning:** awareness campaigns that combat resistance to change and promote the benefits of ongoing development.
- 2. Strategic career guidance:** services designed to support informed professional decisions.
- 3. Excellence in training:** rigorous, comprehensive programs tailored to the needs of modern employers.

KEY DATA

PRIORITY

P9. Strengthening public participation in the lifelong learning process to facilitate transitions and mobility

DURATION

30 months (2024–2026)

BUDGET

4.719.656,16 lei

TARGET GROUP

602 employees

PROJECT CODE

MySMIS 317726

FUNDING

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Education and Employment Program 2021–2027

PARTNERS

Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Community Development Association (ADIZMB) – project leader; “Romania Takes Root” Association – partner



ACCES la formare și carieră în București – Ilfov
Cod MySMIS 317726



Proiect cofinanțat din Fondul Social European - prin Programul Educație și Ocupare 2021 - 2027

ADIZMB



Programe de formare: competențe pentru economia viitorului

The selection of courses within the project “Access to Training and Career in Bucharest–Ilfov – Keep Up” reflects the needs identified in the territorial analyses conducted by the project’s team of experts:

- **IT Specialist** (Computer Systems Programmer): training to meet the need for process digitization.
- **Digital Skills**: the technological literacy required at every hierarchical level.
- **Environmental Officer**: training company employees to comply with sustainability standards (Green Deal).
- **Construction Electrician**: supporting the infrastructure sector through high-level technical qualifications.

Each course is conducted in an interactive format, which includes case studies, applied discussions, simulations, teamwork, and learning tasks based on practical activities. The vocational training programs for “Environmental Officer,” “IT Systems Programmer,” and “Construction Electrician” are recognized by the National Qualifications Authority, offering nationally recognized diplomas

2025 Milestones: Progress and Implementation

The project has been implemented since October 2024 and is currently in full swing. Key achievements by 2025 include:

- Project launch and implementation of awareness campaigns,
- Recruitment and assessment of the target group,
- Providing career counseling services to dozens of employees in the target group,
- Launching vocational training programs,
- Developing course materials.

“Access to Training and Career in Bucharest–Ilfov – Keep Up” supports the development of digital, technical, and environmental skills, employees’ adaptation to technological changes, professional mobility and flexibility, the strengthening of a culture of lifelong learning in the Bucharest–Ilfov region, and increased regional competitiveness by attracting investment and stimulating local innovation

The project promotes the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, facilitating equitable access to training and professional development opportunities, in line with the investment priorities, objectives, and actions undertaken by Romania under the Education and Employment Program 2021–2027 (PEO). The intervention contributes to leveraging human capital as a strategic resource for sustainable development and regional competitiveness.

Internships adapted to the labor market in Bucharest–Ilfov for students in vocational and technical education



Proiect: "Stagii de practică adaptate pieței muncii din București – Ilfov pentru elevii din învățământul profesional și tehnic"
Cod MySMIS: 311877



"Proiect finanțat din Fondul Social European + prin Programul Educație și Ocupare 2021 – 2027"



The project ensures the organization, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of practical activities for 252 students in vocational and technical education, including dual education, enrolled at the "Cezar Nicolau" Technological High School in Brănești, Ilfov County, studying in the fields of economics, agriculture, tourism and food service, and mechanics.

This initiative pursues four main objectives:

1. **Developing professional skills** by organizing and conducting relevant internships for 252 students;
2. **Increasing the certification rate** by supporting at least 230 students in obtaining professional qualifications;
3. **Strengthening partnerships with the business community** by initiating 12 new collaborations with economic agents;
4. **Creating a sustainable regional partnership** focused on adapting vocational education to the requirements of the green economy and the real needs of the labor market.





KEY DATA

PRIORITY

P8. Increasing the accessibility, attractiveness, and quality of vocational and technical education

DURATION

24 months (December 2024 – November 2026)

BUDGET

2.462.652 lei

TARGET GROUP

252 students in vocational and technical education, including dual education, studying in the fields of economics (56), agriculture (106), tourism and food services (43), and mechanics (47)

FUNDING

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Education and Employment Program 2021–2027

PARTNERS

Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Community Development Association (ADIZMB) – beneficiary, “Cezar Nicolau” Technological High School (Brănești, Ilfov County) – partner

Implementation Milestones

The year 2025 marked the transition from the project's official launch to student selection and the implementation of practical activities:

January: project launch event.

March – May: the student selection process and informing them about the benefits.

April – November: selection of stakeholders in the Bucharest-Ilfov region (businesses, companies) interested in joining the project as internship partners.

October – December: the first internships took place at partner businesses and at the ADIZMB headquarters (for the economic sector). Participants acquired technical skills, ranging from the use of mechanical equipment to the management of economic flows.

Ongoing monitoring: internship coordinators ensured the smooth conduct of practical activities and monitored each participant's progress.

Students became familiar with activities specific to their fields of study, applied the knowledge gained in theoretical classes, and developed essential professional skills, while also gaining direct experience in their chosen field. They were supervised by both the teachers responsible for the internships and representatives of the partner companies. The activities in which they were involved helped increase young people's chances of employment, strengthen the link between the school and the business community, and motivate them to continue their studies.

Long-term impact: strengthening regional resilience

By facilitating collaboration between the education system and the business community, the project:

1. Contributes to reducing youth unemployment in Ilfov County;
2. Facilitates local companies' access to a pre-qualified workforce;
3. Supports young people's motivation to remain active in the community by offering them prospects for professional development.

Thus, the initiative positions itself as a strategic tool for human capital development in the Bucharest–Ilfov area, supporting the integration of young people into a dynamic and constantly evolving economy.



Digital Skills for Adapting to the Labor Market

The “Digital Skills for Adapting to the Labor Market” project addresses modern challenges by aligning employees’ skills with a rapidly evolving economic ecosystem. Ranking first nationally (99/100 points) in the project selection phase attests to the quality of the institutional design and the relevance of the initiative for the Bucharest metropolitan area.

The initiative aims to engage 604 employees from the Municipality of Bucharest in integrated activities for the assessment, training, and development of digital skills. The intervention includes an initial assessment of skill levels, the development of personalized training plans, as well as participation in vocational training programs in the field of information and communications technology. These measures align with Specific Objective ESO4.7 of the Education and Employment Program 2021–2027, contributing to increased workforce adaptability and strengthening the capacity to respond to the demands of the digital economy.

The project is structured in phases, starting with an understanding of the market’s actual needs and culminating in the concrete development of participants’ skills. In the first phase, a needs analysis was conducted among economic agents in Bucharest active in the field of passenger land transport (CAEN 4939). This analysis informed subsequent interventions, ensuring that training programs align with current labor market demands.

The courses are structured around the five areas of digital competence and the 21 specific competencies of the European DigComp framework, covering areas such as: digital tools for remote work, databases, digital marketing, management in the context of digitalization (including IoT and AI), installation, configuration, and administration of operating systems, administration, development, and security of ICT networks, back office in the context of digitalization (including Big Data and Cloud technologies). The project also includes a nationally recognized specialized vocational training course: “Computer Systems Programmer.”

KEY DATA

PRIORITY

P9. Strengthening public participation in lifelong learning to facilitate transitions and mobility

DURATION

27 months (September 2025 – November 2027)

BUDGET

4.975.761,72 lei

TARGET GROUP

604 employees aged 18 to 64 and domiciled/residing in Bucharest

PROJECT CODE

MySMIS 328895

FUNDING

Project co-financed by the European Social Fund + through the Education and Employment Program (PEO) 2021-2027

PARTNERS

Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB) – project leader, “Romania Takes Root” Association – partner



Implementation of Activities in 2025

The year 2025 marked the transition from the strategic planning phase to the operational execution phase:

March 2025: Confirmation of eligibility and attainment of project leader status following technical and financial evaluation.

October 2025: Organization of the launch conference, which brought together key stakeholders, representatives of public administration, and leaders from the transportation sector, enhancing the initiative's visibility.

November 2025: Official launch of recruitment and selection activities for the target group.

December 2025: Launch of the initial assessment phase. On December 9–10, employees of the Bucharest Transport Company (STB), the first participants from the target group enrolled in the “IT Systems Programmer” and “Management in the Context of Digitalization” courses, took part in the initial assessment to identify each participant's actual training needs.

Social Responsibility and Horizontal Principles

The “Digital Skills for Adapting to the Labor Market” project integrates the horizontal principles adopted at the European level: equal opportunities and treatment between women and men, non-discrimination and the prevention of any form of discrimination, accessibility for people with disabilities, and sustainable development. It also contributes to addressing the following secondary themes: contributing to green skills and jobs and the green economy; non-discrimination and the prevention of any form of discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation; and the development of digital skills and jobs.

The results achieved in 2025 confirm the potential for long-term impact, both at the individual and organizational levels.





Green-Tex

Developing Sustainable Production and Consumption of Textiles and Clothing in the Danube Region

The Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Community Development Association (ADIZMB) launched a pilot program in 2025 dedicated to the separate collection of textile waste, by installing 12 specialized containers in five localities in Ilfov County: Berceni (2 units), Brănești (4 units), Pantelimon (2 units), Popești-Leordeni (2 units), and Vidra (2 units). The system is available free of charge to the public, with the collected materials being sent to recycling facilities, in line with the principles of the circular economy.

The initiative aimed to provide solutions to a pressing need in the Bucharest metropolitan area, where an integrated textile waste collection system has not yet been developed, given that, starting in 2025, Romania and the other European Union member states must collect these materials separately.

The installation of the 12 containers took place as part of the transnational project “Enhancing Danube Green Textile and Garment Production and Consumption” – Green-Tex, funded by the Danube Transnational Programme, a program aimed at cooperation in the Danube region, covering topics such as environmental protection, innovation, and competitiveness. The launch of the Green-Tex project in Romania marked the occasion for the conference “Sustainability in the Textile

Industry,” held on March 4, 2025, in Bucharest. The event brought together representatives of local authorities, circular economy experts, and sustainability partners. Public awareness campaigns were also organized to highlight the importance of recycling textile waste.

Green-Tex: a European initiative for a sustainable textile industry

Bringing together 11 partner organizations from nine countries, Green-Tex aims to strengthen transnational collaboration and innovation in the sustainable textile and apparel sector across partner countries, making them more resilient and flexible in adapting to global trends. Green-Tex creates and tests new solutions for actors in the textile industry value chain (from fashion design, production, and use to textile waste collection) to become more resilient and competitive in adapting to global changes, transitioning from traditional practices to eco-friendly textile practices based on a more regenerative circular economy.

ADIZMB's role in the project focuses on testing and validating effective models for textile waste collection through the implementation of a pilot program in the Bucharest metropolitan area. This component is being developed in parallel with similar initiatives in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Trenčín (Slovakia), contributing to the exchange of best practices and the development of a model that can be replicated at the regional level.

Key Activities and Results 2025

January: participation of the ADIZMB delegation in the Green-Tex partners' meeting in Zagreb for an exchange of best practices and a visit to the Textile Science Research Centre.

February - April: installation of the 12 containers in the localities of Berceni, Brănești, Pantelimon, Popești - Leordeni, and Vidra.

March: the conference “Textile Recycling and the Circular Economy,” organized by ADIZMB in Bucharest, sparked a dynamic exchange of ideas among authorities, experts, and the community.

April - May: interactive workshops in schools in the partner localities, focusing on environmental education and the impact of textile waste on the environment.

April - September: over 39 tons of textile waste collected by the installed containers.

September: participation in the Green Fashion Show, Postojna, Slovenia, where sustainable collections and alternatives to fast fashion were presented, creatively promoting reuse and the circular economy.

Green-Tex's benefits for the sustainability of the textile sector in the Bucharest metropolitan area

Raising awareness and education: an active role in informing local communities by organizing workshops in the localities where textile containers are installed.

Promoting sustainable textile recycling: implementing effective strategies for the collection and recycling of textile waste.

Developing best practices and regional solutions: a model of best practices at the local level that can serve as an example for other regions, encouraging the widespread adoption of sustainable practices in the textile industry.

By the end of January 2026, over 50 tons of textile waste had been collected through the 12 containers placed at the initiative of the Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Community Development Association in the towns of Berceni, Brănești, Pantelimon, Popești-Leordeni, and Vidra. A quantity that would otherwise have ended up in a landfill has, through this project, entered a sorting, reuse, and recycling cycle, directly contributing to reducing the environmental impact.

By choosing the textile waste collection solution, residents of the aforementioned localities have thus contributed to:

- a reduction of over 1,000 tons in carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the production of new clothing and footwear and from the decomposition of textile waste in landfills (equivalent to 10,514,641 km traveled by plane by one person),
- saving 98,363 m³ of arable land, freed up from the production of raw materials for new clothing and footwear,
- saving 108,193 m³ of water, otherwise needed for the production of raw materials for new clothing and footwear, for irrigating crops for raw materials, and for fiber manufacturing and dyeing processes (equivalent to 1,081,927 10-minute showers).

The categories of textiles most frequently collected via dedicated containers are:

1. Clothing (including knitted or crocheted items) – 37%
2. Pillows, bedding, table linens, toiletries, and kitchen linens – 28.5%
3. Footwear with rubber or plastic/textile outsoles and uppers – 16.2%
4. Interior curtains and blinds, drapes, and bedding – 9.1%
5. Clothing made of natural leather/fur – 3%.

These results represent a significant step toward a circular economy in the Bucharest metropolitan area and demonstrate that well-managed infrastructure, coupled with civic engagement, can bring about real change.

Interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

Green-Tex

KEY DATA

DURATION

24 months (2024–2026)

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

1.790.300,00 Euro

ADIZMB BUDGET

152.000 Euro

PROJECT CODE

DRP0200404

FUNDING

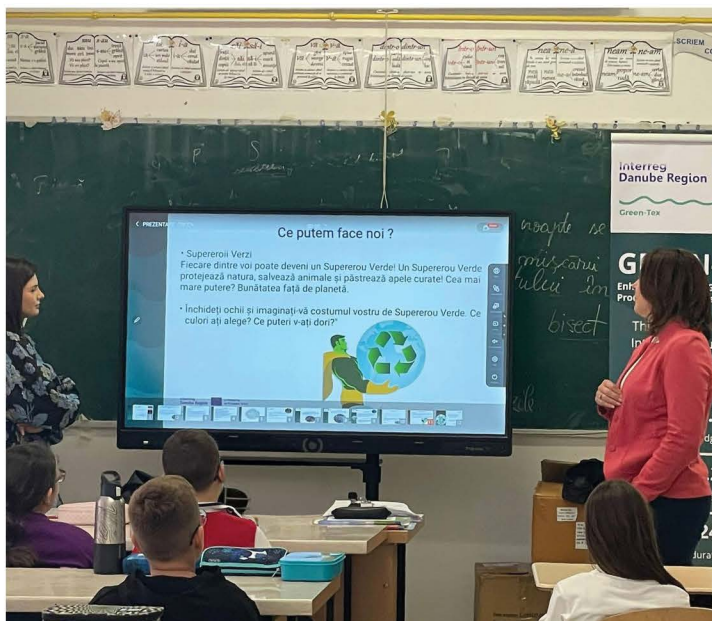
Danube Transnational Programme

PARTNERS

Agency for the Development of the Sarajevo Economic Region (Bosnia and Herzegovina) – project leader, Municipality of Postojna (Slovenia), Nativa, Institute for Sustainable Growth (Slovenia), EKOCHARITY Slovakia civic association (Slovakia), Eurotex Ltd. (Bulgaria), Municipality of Majur (Croatia), University of Zagreb, Faculty of Textile Technology (Croatia), University of Donja Gorica (Montenegro), Zlatibor Regional Development Agency (Serbia), Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Municipal Development Association (Romania), Hungarian Association for Responsible Innovation Active First (Hungary)

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, City of Trenčín (Slovakia), Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests (Romania), Ministry of Municipal Services, Infrastructure, Spatial Planning, Construction, and Environmental Protection of the City of Sarajevo



METRO CASE

Strategies for Collaboration and Comparative Improvements in METROpolis

The European project “METRO CASE: Collaboration Strategies and Comparative METROpolitan Improvements” aims to transform the way metropolises plan, collaborate, and invest in urban development, from infrastructure to public services (education, health, utilities, transportation, etc.). Bringing together nine European partners, the project develops innovative models of metropolitan governance to address the complexity of decision-making and current challenges. In an increasingly interconnected European context, it contributes to creating governance solutions tailored to present and future needs, aiming to improve public policies through efficient, participatory, and data-driven coordination.



Activities include interregional exchanges among partners, study visits, local communities of practice, the development of a best practices handbook and common governance tools, as well as the improvement of metropolitan policy frameworks. The project also addresses the need to optimize EU investments in metropolitan areas by developing a shared vision of governance, identifying forms of cooperation, and improving strategic planning tools to support integrated territorial development.

In Romania, the development of metropolitan areas highlights the need for functional governance that ensures the coordination of strategies and policies regarding transportation, infrastructure, the environment, housing, and the economy. The lack thereof leads to urban development that is out of step with residents' needs, fragmented public transportation, delayed or lost investments, and disparities in quality of life between the core city and peri-urban areas.

As part of the project, ADIZMB is developing *Governance state of the art*, an analysis sheet to inform metropolitan policies and projects:

1. General Information: identifies the metropolitan area, the institutions involved, and the person in charge.
2. Territorial Framework: presents data on area, population, density, number of localities, administrative structure, land use, and transportation networks.
3. Socio-economic framework: includes indicators on demographics, education, employment, the economy, tourism, protected areas, and social infrastructure.
4. Governance: describes the institutional structure, funding, responsibilities, decision-making process, and partnerships, as well as the level of cooperation.
5. Public policies: identifies the relevant instruments, objectives, issues, expected changes, and the related context.

KEY DATA

DURATION

May 2025–July 2029

TOTAL BUDGET

1.939.616 euros

ADIZMB BUDGET

198.200 euros

FUNDING

Project co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg Europe Program 2021–2027

PARTNERS

Municipality of Genoa (lead partner), Polytechnic University of Turin, City of Warsaw, Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Municipal Development Association, Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Municipality of Skopje, Association of Local Authorities in the Gothenburg Region, Municipality of Tirana, METREX - Network of European Regions and Metropolitan Areas (advisory partner)

ASSOCIATED POLICY AUTHORITY

Ministry of Development, Public Works, and Administration

Activities 2025

June 2025 – Project launch, Genoa, Italy

The ADIZMB delegation participated in project presentation sessions, thematic workshops, and study visits, focusing on examples of best practices in metropolitan planning and the coordination of public services. The meeting consolidated the project methodology and prepared for the implementation of activities at the local level.

October 2025 – First stakeholder meeting in Bucharest

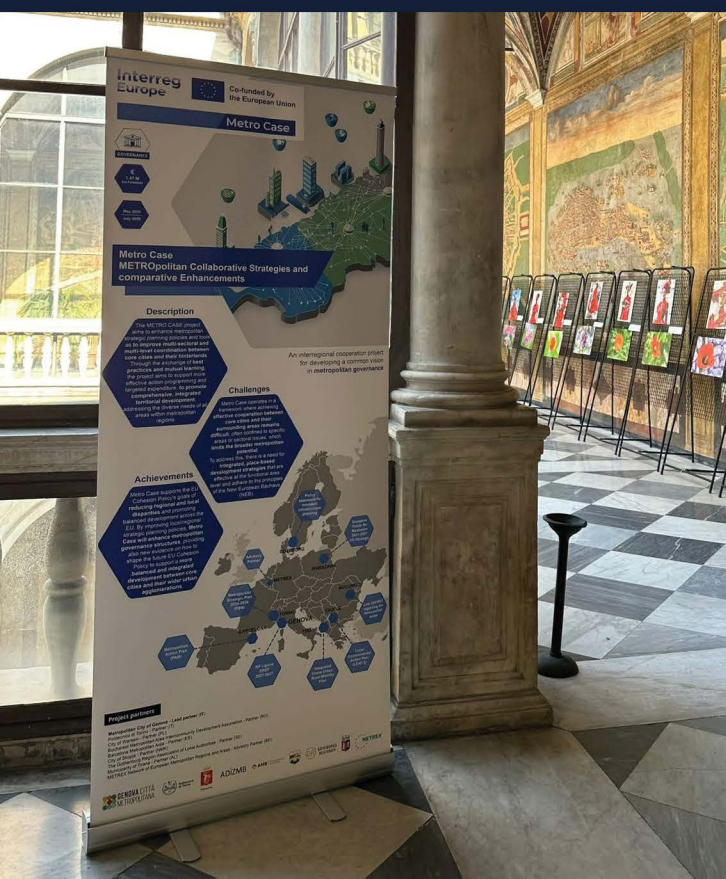
ADIZMB organized a meeting dedicated to collaboration and identifying comparative solutions for improving public policies in the metropolitan area, bringing together authorities, experts, and local stakeholders.

November 2025 – Study visit, Gothenburg, Sweden

Participants analyzed European best practices in metropolitan governance, took part in workshops and study visits to deepen their understanding of multisectoral and multilevel models, and strengthened international partnerships and institutional capacity through networking and the exchange of experiences.

Impact for the Bucharest Metropolitan Area

Through METRO CASE, ADIZMB contributes to creating a coherent metropolitan governance framework that delivers tangible benefits for communities and administrations: integrated public transportation, reducing service fragmentation; efficient, strategically coordinated investments across the entire metropolitan area; urban development aligned with citizens' needs; and a reduction in disparities in quality of life. The project also enables the identification of optimal forms of cooperation, the development of policies and strategic planning tools, and the promotion of a shared vision for metropolitan development. Interregional exchanges and study visits facilitate the transfer of best practices, adapted to the local context, contributing to the development of a replicable European model.



Interreg
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the European Union

Metro Case



S.M.ALL

Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Mobility for Metropolitan Communities

In a metropolitan context marked by increased pressure on transportation infrastructure and the need to reduce pollution, the European project S.M.ALL (Sustainable Urban Mobility for All) proposed a people-centered approach, in which mobility becomes an accessible and safe right for every member of the community. Bucharest faces severe congestion and poor air quality, caused by a high modal share of private cars, at 27.3%

Completed in December 2025, the project's main objective was to facilitate equitable access to sustainable urban mobility for all citizens, with a focus on vulnerable groups: children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged groups. At the same time, the initiative supported integrated sustainable urban development and strengthened cooperation among European cities.

In the Bucharest metropolitan area, this initiative supported integrated sustainable urban development and strengthened cooperation through the URBACT methodology, based on participation and learning by doing. The project contributed to shaping a modern planning paradigm, promoting solutions that encourage active transportation—walking and cycling—and the use of public transportation to reduce dependence on private cars.

Strategic Interventions and Action Directions

As part of the project, ADIZMB was involved in developing tools and solutions tailored to the local context. A central element was the development of a best-practice guide for creating a multimodal hub,

designed to address the specific needs of the peri-urban areas surrounding Bucharest.

This type of infrastructure facilitates connections between different modes of transport—public transit, bicycles, electric scooters, and shared mobility services—contributing to the creation of an efficient, flexible, and sustainable mobility system.

At the same time, the project addressed mobility around educational institutions. In collaboration with the Bucharest City Hall and the Sector 6 City Hall, students' travel patterns were analyzed to identify solutions for increasing the share of walking and cycling, improving access to public transportation, and reducing traffic and pollution near schools.

Among the proposed measures were the development of the concept of school climate zones, the reorganization of crosswalks, and the implementation of educational programs dedicated to sustainable mobility. These interventions targeted not only infrastructure but also changes in behaviors and the culture of urban mobility, moving toward a safer, healthier, and more responsible model.

KEY DATA

DURATION

30 months (June 2023 – December 2025)

BUDGET

105.000 euros

PROJECT CODE

20329

FUNDING

Project co-funded by the URBACT IV program

PARTNERS

Municipality of Ferrara (project leader), City of Ferrara, Municipality of Larissa, Komotini, Quadrilatero Urbano, Eurometropolis of Strasbourg, City of Sofia, Bucharest Inter-Municipal Development Association, Municipality of Druskininkai, SKOFJA LOKA.

URBACT



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Activities carried out in 2025

Throughout 2025, ADIZMB was actively involved in knowledge-sharing exchanges, international meetings, and local initiatives, contributing to strengthening the project's European dimension and adapting best practices to the local context.

March 2025 – Škofja Loka, Slovenia

Participation in the project's 7th transnational meeting provided an opportunity to analyze relevant examples of community involvement in the transformation of urban spaces. Discussions focused on developing integrated action plans and identifying funding mechanisms for sustainable and inclusive mobility.

July 2025 – Bucharest

ADIZMB organized a working meeting at ARCUB Gabroveni dedicated to the safety and accessibility of areas surrounding schools. The event brought together representatives of local administrations from Bucharest and Ilfov, facilitating a technical dialogue on the use of geospatial data and the identification of solutions to improve school mobility.

October 2025 – Vienna, Austria

Participation in an URBACT inter-network study visit allowed for the exploration of advanced models of urban design and inclusive mobility. The examples analyzed—from bicycle-friendly neighborhoods to green urban hubs—provided valuable insights.

November 2025 – Bucharest

ADIZMB hosted the final meeting of the S.M.ALL project. The event was marked by the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding*, which establishes strategic directions for continued collaboration and the development of sustainable urban mobility policies.

Impact and prospects for the Bucharest metropolitan area

Through the implementation of the S.M.ALL project, ADIZMB contributed to the development of an urban mobility model with an impact on:

- increasing safety in areas around schools;
- promoting active mobility and reducing pollution;
- strengthening cooperation among public institutions;
- developing administrative capacity through the exchange of best practices at the European level;
- establishing public policies based on concrete data and analysis.

Integrated solutions and collaboration between local and international stakeholders have supported the development of a vision for a more accessible, safer, and more sustainable metropolitan area.

DIGITALIZE

Strengthening the resilience of tourism through digital solutions

In the current European context, characterized by rapid transformations in the tourism sector due to digitalization, changing consumer behavior, and the need to transition toward sustainable models, the *DIGITALIZE: Strengthening Tourism Resilience through Digital Solutions* project proposes an integrated approach aimed at increasing competitiveness in this sector.

Funded by the Interreg Europe Program, the project will run for four years and aims primarily to support public authorities in developing and adapting regional and local policies by integrating digital solutions into the tourism sector. By leveraging digital technologies, the initiative aims to improve the visitor experience, attract new categories of tourists, stimulate innovation, and promote sustainable tourism practices.

The main objective of the project is to align with existing policies or strategic documents. In this regard, the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (SIDU) of the Municipality of Bucharest has been identified as a relevant instrument for integrating the project's results, and the Bucharest City Hall has joined the initiative as an associated authority.



Methodological Approach and Areas of Intervention

The DIGITALIZE project is structured in two phases, combining the exchange of experience with concrete improvements to public policies.

The first phase is dedicated to knowledge transfer through thematic workshops, meetings with relevant stakeholders, comparative analyses, and study visits organized to partners in Alytus (Lithuania), Badajoz (Spain), Almodôvar (Portugal), and Reggio Calabria (Italy). The second phase aims to improve public policy tools by integrating lessons learned and already validated solutions.

The directions proposed by the project include:

- Improving the visitor experience through digital tools;
- Attracting a new audience of tourists;
- Stimulating innovation;
- Promoting sustainable tourism.

KEY DATA

DURATION

April 2024 – June 2028

TOTAL BUDGET

209.620 euros

FUNDING

Project co-financed by the Interreg Europe program

PROJECT LEADER

Hévíz (Hungary)

PARTNERS

Hévíz (Hungary), Alytus (Lithuania), Badajoz (Spain), Almodovar (Portugal), Vlissingen (Netherlands), Rhine-Neckar Regional Association (Germany), Reggio Calabria (Italy), Rîșcani (Moldova), Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Municipal Development Association (Romania)

ASSOCIATED AUTHORITY

Bucharest City Hall

DIGITALIZE

Enhancing Tourism Resilience
through Digital Solutions



The Role of ADIZMB and Its Relevance to the Bucharest Metropolitan Area

Within the project, ADIZMB plays an active role in analyzing and promoting digital solutions in tourism across the Bucharest metropolitan area by applying lessons learned from experience-sharing exchanges to the public policy-making process.

In 2025, the main activities within the project focused on conducting an analysis of the current state of tourism in Bucharest, with an emphasis on the level of digitalization and development opportunities, and organizing working meetings with representatives of the Bucharest City Hall, the Ilfov County Council, the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, and cultural institutions. These efforts contributed to strengthening institutional cooperation and creating a common framework for action.

Through its involvement in the project, ADIZMB supports the integration of digital solutions into metropolitan tourism development, contributing to the diversification and increased attractiveness of the tourism offering, as well as its adaptation to the current needs of visitors.

Activities carried out in 2025

- Analysis of the current state of tourism in Bucharest and presentation of findings to the partner group;
- Participation in online meetings among partners held each semester;
- Participation in the online seminar organized by Interreg, “Citizen-oriented innovations”;
- Organizing a meeting with representatives from the Bucharest City Hall - Department of Culture, Education, and Tourism, the Ilfov County Council, ADRBI, and the National Museum of Romanian History to present the project;
- Participation in the study visit to Badajoz, Spain;
- Meeting with the NGO “Muzee de la sat” to include their activities on the Interreg platform under the “examples of good practices” section;
- Participation in the study visit to Reggio Calabria, Italy.

Evaluation and Impact

DIGITALIZE represents a strategic initiative aimed at developing the digital capabilities of the European tourism industry, in line with objectives related to sustainability and regional cohesion.

Participation in this project provides a valuable opportunity to explore and test digital solutions applicable to tourism within the Municipality of Bucharest, as well as to initiate an institutional dialogue on the development of urban policies dedicated to this field, in the context of the year-on-year increase in the number of tourists visiting the capital.



Green Place. Let's do it together!

Participatory urban regeneration

In the current European context, where many cities are grappling with abandoned or underutilized spaces, the Green Place “Let's do it together!” project proposes an integrated and participatory approach to revitalize these areas and reintegrate them into the urban fabric, using nature-based solutions. The initiative aims to transform these areas into accessible and functional community spaces and green spaces, contributing to improved quality of life and strengthened social cohesion.

Funded through the URBACT IV program, the project supported sustainable urban development through the exchange of experiences and the transfer of best practices among European cities, contributing to a better alignment of urban policies with the real needs of communities.

Objectives and Results

The main objective of the project was to implement a participatory methodological process, based on the involvement of the URBACT Local Group, through which local authorities and stakeholders went through the stages of analysis, problem definition, co-creation of the vision, and development of the Integrated Action Plan.

The project's approach integrated several complementary directions:

- adaptive reuse of underutilized sites;
- integration of heritage into regeneration processes;
- increasing urban accessibility and connectivity;
- introduction of green infrastructure and sustainability principles;
- establishing a participatory process through the URBACT Local Group;

Through the exchange of experience among partners and the testing of pilot solutions, the project generated intervention models replicable at the European level.

The Role of ADIZMB and Local Implementation

The Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Municipal Development Association (ADIZMB) served as the local coordinator of the planning process, ensuring the implementation of the URBACT methodology at the Bucharest municipal level and facilitating collaboration among relevant stakeholders. Its main contribution consisted of coordinating the URBACT Local Group and drafting the Integrated Action Plan for the regeneration of the Victoria Depot.

The Victoria Depot site, located in a central area of the city, is characterized by underutilization, limited accessibility, and insufficient use of the existing heritage, despite its urban and historical potential. In this context, the project aimed to define, through a participatory process, a vision for transforming the site into a multifunctional space that integrates transportation, cultural, and community functions and contributes to improving urban connections and the quality of public space.

KEY DATA

DURATION

June 2023 – December 2025

BUDGET

78.500 euros

PROJECT CODE

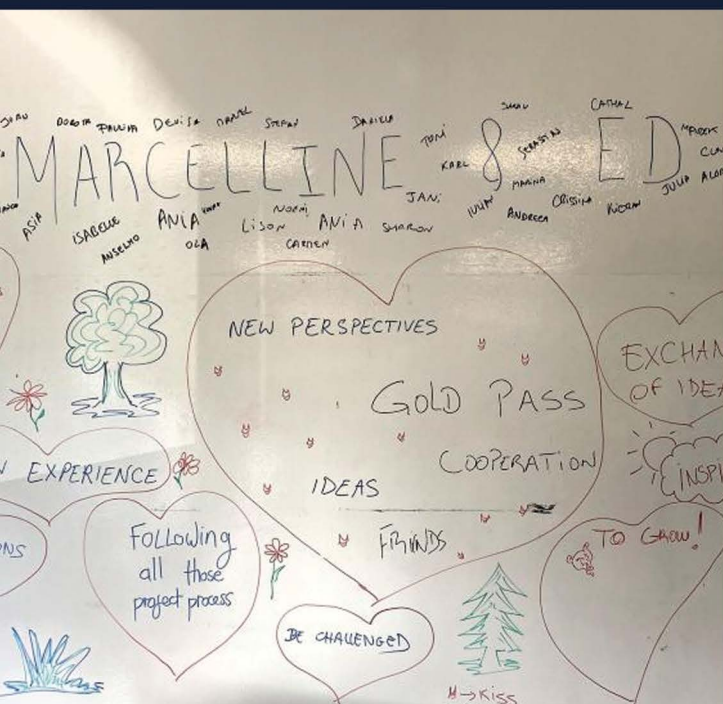
20286

FUNDING

Project co-financed by the URBACT IV program

PARTNERS

Wrocław, Poland (project leader), Boulogne-sur-Mer Développement Côte d'Opale (France), Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Municipal Development Association – ADIZMB (Romania), Cehegín (Spain), Limerick (Ireland), Löbau (Germany), Nitra (Slovakia), Onda (Spain), Quarto d'Altino (Italy), Vila Nova de Poiares (Portugal).



Methodology and Tools Developed

The project followed the specific URBACT methodology, which combines the transfer of experience between cities with the development of concrete planning tools. To this end, the following were developed:

- best practice sheets;
- comparative analyses and thematic presentations;
- study visit reports;
- pilot actions tested at the local level;
- the integrated action plan.

A key element of implementation was the activation of the URBACT Local Group, which brought together relevant local stakeholders—public administration, experts, non-governmental organizations, and community representatives. This mechanism facilitated the co-creation of solutions and ensured that interventions were aligned with users' actual needs.

Activities and Achievements in 2025

January - September 2025 – Participation in working sessions within the Urboteca Fellowship, dedicated to analyzing and exploring the regeneration potential of the Victoria Depot site.

March 2025 – Participation in the second online meeting of the Green Place network, focused on the exchange of best practices and project progress.

April 2025 – Working meeting with the Bucharest City Hall regarding the opportunity to organize a competition for the Victoria Depot; participation in the study visit to Lobau (Germany) and the URBACT Festival.

May 2025 – Organization of the 5th meeting of the URBACT Local Group and participation in the partners' meeting in Vila Nova de Poiares (Portugal).

September 2025 – Participation in the project partners' meeting in Limerick (Ireland).

October 2025 – Organizing the 6th meeting of the URBACT Local Group and participating in the study visit to Wrocław (Poland).

2025 – Drafting the public consultation report, in collaboration with the Association for Urban Transition.

URBACT



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PROWD - PROximity Without Density

Against the backdrop of rapidly expanding metropolitan areas and growing pressures on mobility, resources, and access to services, the PROWD project proposes a critical adaptation of the “15-minute city” concept to low-density urban areas. Funded through the Driving Urban Transitions program (Horizon Europe), the project aims to identify appropriate responses for metropolitan peripheries, where traditional models are no longer applicable. PROWD starts from the observation that a significant portion of the population lives in dispersed, car-dependent areas where access to services cannot be improved solely through densification or major investments, proposing more flexible, context-adapted proximity alternatives.

The “15-Minute City” Concept and Its Limitations

The 15mC model promotes rapid access to essential functions by walking or cycling, being effective in dense cities characterized by functional mix and spatial proximity. In low-density areas, however, its application is limited by insufficient infrastructure, long distances, and car dependency, and conventional solutions are often costly and inefficient. PROWD proposes overcoming this limitation by extending the concept of proximity to social and functional dimensions, based on cooperation, resource sharing, and hybrid services, capable of generating functional everyday ecosystems even under conditions of low density.

Project Objective

PROWD aims to reconceptualize the 15mC model for low-density urban areas (LDUA) by identifying and testing unconventional solutions that reduce car dependency and improve access to services. The project addresses the forced mobility specific to suburbs and explores types of initiatives, functional networks, and institutional mechanisms capable of supporting new forms of proximity, including for

vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, or people with reduced mobility.

The project shifts the focus from strictly spatial proximity to an integrated, social, and functional one. Existing initiatives—shared services, on-demand transportation, activities in multifunctional spaces—are leveraged not as exceptions, but as a basis for replicable models. PROWD explores the strengthening of proximity through local networks, institutional cooperation, and the integration of the physical and digital dimensions.

Methodology and Implementation

PROWD uses a multi-scalar methodology, combining applied research, comparative analysis, and local experimentation. At the European level, it develops a critical framework based on literature and case studies, while at the local level it analyzes governance, accessibility, and socio-spatial dynamics. The project is implemented in four metropolitan contexts—Rome, Lisbon, Bucharest, and Vilnius—using participatory tools (interviews, surveys, workshops, co-design) to identify needs, mobility patterns, and transition potential.

KEY DATA

DURATION

ADIZMB BUDGET

75.540 Euros, 100% grant funding;

FUNDING

Project funded through the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) program, co-funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe program

PARTNERS

Università degli Studi di Roma Tre (UNIROMA3) – lead partner, Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI), Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning – University of Lisbon (IGOT-UL), URBAN2020 Association, Città metropolitana di Roma Capitale (CM ROMA), Bucharest Metropolitan Area Inter-Municipal Development Association, Faculty of Geography – University of Bucharest, Vilnius City Administration, Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences

Results and Deliverables

The project generates a critical framework regarding the applicability of the 15mC model in low-density areas, a mapping of relevant initiatives, and analyses of governance and accessibility. At the local level, it produces co-creation tools, consultation methodologies, and cooperation models, including collaboration agreements and concrete steps tailored to each context.

Activity 2025

In March 2025, the official launch of the PROWD project took place, marking the beginning of an international collaboration dedicated to transforming how urban proximity is understood, and in November 2025, the second project meeting was held, organized by ADIZMB in Bucharest.

Throughout the year, ADIZMB carried out analysis, coordination, and engagement activities with local stakeholders, contributing to the development and testing of the proposed solutions. Dialogue with local partners and community participation are central elements of this process.



Driving Urban
Transitions

<https://prowdproject.com>



FAVORIT+

Sustainable Renovation of Apartment Buildings in the Favorit Neighborhood

The FAVORIT+ initiative proposes an integrated approach to the sustainable renovation of apartment buildings constructed during the communist era, combining solutions inspired by nature, technology, and community involvement. The project aims to transform collective housing into energy-efficient spaces adapted to current environmental requirements, contributing to increased urban resilience and the achievement of climate neutrality.

The interventions focus on using eco-friendly materials as an alternative to conventional solutions, integrating renewable energy sources, and developing digital tools to optimize energy consumption, while promoting the concept of an energy community through the active involvement of residents in the transformation process.

The initiative addresses an acute need at the urban level, particularly in Sector 6, where the Favorit neighborhood is home to a significant number of apartment buildings constructed between 1950 and 1990, characterized by outdated infrastructure, high energy consumption, and a lack of integrated modernization solutions.



FAVORIT+: Innovative Solutions for Urban Regeneration

To address the challenges of a lack of substantial renovations, the use of inefficient technologies, and limited access to sustainable solutions, FAVORIT+ is developing and testing a set of integrated solutions:

- **Nature-inspired solutions:** assessing locally available biomass and using it as an eco-friendly alternative for the renovation of a pilot multi-family building, while also contributing to the development of a local industry based on sustainable materials.
- **Technical solutions:** installation of biosolar technologies on the pilot building and three other buildings selected through an open call, as well as the implementation of smart systems to optimize energy consumption.
- **Community - centered solutions:** transforming the former Favorit Restaurant into a community innovation center, designed to facilitate collaboration between residents, authorities, and specialists, for the development of solutions tailored to local needs.

KEY DATA

DURATION

42 months (October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2029)

TOTAL FUNDING

4.967.360 euros

FUNDING PROGRAM

European Urban Initiative (EUI)/European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

IMPLEMENTATION AREA

Bucharest, Sector 6 – Favorit neighborhood

PROJECT TYPE

urban regeneration and energy efficiency

LEAD PARTNER

Sector 6 City Hall

TRANSFER PARTNERS

Urbasofia, "Politehnica" National University of Science and Technology in Bucharest, Technical University of Civil Engineering in Bucharest, ADIZMB, Indeco Soft, Solar Decathlon Bucharest Association (EFdeN), Între vecini, National Research and Development Institute for Machinery and Installations for Agriculture and the Food Industry, UrbanizeHub, Center for Urban Innovation and Design in Sector 6

MAIN CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

1. **Outdated buildings:** approximately 70% of the apartment blocks in Sector 6 have not been renovated for over 50 years.
2. **High energy consumption:** use of inefficient systems and lack of renewable energy sources.
3. **Limited adoption of eco-friendly solutions:** focus on traditional renovation, without the integration of sustainable materials.
4. **Fragmented governance:** most apartment buildings are managed by homeowners' associations with limited involvement in strategic decisions.
5. **Social inequalities:** limited access to modern solutions and opportunities for community participation.

ADIZMB will contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the innovative solution proposed by FAVORIT+ by collecting quantitative and qualitative data, integrating information provided by citizens as well as digitally generated data, correlating data and modeling impact, increasing visibility, and maximizing communication and dissemination of the project within the metropolitan area as well as internationally. A key objective is to stimulate community participation and co-design activities through digital tools, events, and campaigns, while promoting collaboration with other relevant EU projects and networks supporting the energy transition and climate neutrality.

Main activities and implementation milestones

October 2025: project launch and commencement of analyses regarding the condition of the building stock and available local resources.

2026: selection of the pilot building and the other three participating properties, as well as the initiation of sustainable renovation works.

2026–2027: implementation of biosolar solutions and testing of alternative eco-friendly materials.

2027–2028: development and integration of an artificial intelligence-based system for monitoring and optimizing energy consumption.

2028–2029: operationalization of the community innovation center and dissemination of project results.

FAVORIT+ benefits for the community and the environment

- Increased energy efficiency: reducing energy consumption and associated costs for residents.
- Promotion of sustainable materials: using biomass and reducing dependence on polluting materials.
- Community involvement: developing a participatory governance model at the level of homeowners' associations.
- Innovation and digitalization: using artificial intelligence for informed decisions and optimized consumption.
- Replicable model: creating a best-practice example for other neighborhoods and cities in Romania and Europe.



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FAVORIT+

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Coordination and Guidelines for 2026

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The department's work focuses on developing and utilizing territorial analysis tools and supporting urban planning processes at the metropolitan level, with an emphasis on the use of data in decision-making processes.

In 2026, work within the Metropolitan Urban Observatory program will continue to integrate data to create geospatial layers relevant to climate resilience, green infrastructure, and the inventory of the built environment. Concurrently, collaboration within the Mobility and Urban Management HUB will continue to structure interoperable urban data at the metropolitan level.

At the same time, digital twin modeling tools (CityNexus—part of the Destination Earth initiative) will be developed in collaboration with European partners, used to analyze urban development trends and test intervention scenarios, with applications in policy and planning.

Coordination

Bogdan Suditu coordinates the Department of Urban Planning and Sustainable Mobility within ADIZMB and serves as Chair of the Technical Commission for Urban Planning and Land Use of the Bucharest City Hall. He has a Franco-Romanian academic and professional background, holding a Ph.D. in urban planning and having trained at the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in Strasbourg. With experience in academia and central public administration, he contributes to the development and promotion of urban and metropolitan policies.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

The department plays a central role in identifying, developing, and coordinating initiatives funded by European and national funds, contributing to their structuring and alignment with the development priorities of the Bucharest metropolitan area.

For 2026, the department's priorities focus on strengthening the portfolio of initiatives and capitalizing on funding opportunities by translating European and national policies into concrete actions tailored to local needs and with medium- and long-term impact.

Coordination

George Oancea coordinates the Department of Development Strategies and Policies within ADIZMB, with over 18 years of experience in managing projects funded by European and national funds. He has been involved in the development and implementation of complex initiatives in programs such as POR, POCU, Interreg, and Horizon 2020.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

In 2025, the department's work focused on coordinating and monitoring road infrastructure projects, particularly the Bucharest Orbital project, one of the most significant metropolitan mobility initiatives.

For 2026, the department aims to advance projects to the execution phase, strengthen coordination mechanisms among the involved institutions, and maintain an efficient implementation framework.

Coordination

Gabriel Laurențiu Trușcă coordinates the Road Infrastructure Department within ADIZMB, with over 15 years of experience in executive positions in fields such as transportation, energy, and logistics. He has coordinated complex operational structures and high-impact projects.

ADIZMB TEAM

Bucharest metropolitan area





ADIZMB

BUCHAREST METROPOLITAN AREA
INTERCOMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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